

Council for Instructional Technology

October 29th, 2014

1:00 – 2:00 pm, ST501

Minutes

Present: Anna Valeva, Bree McEwan, Kimberly Hartweg, Justin Ehrlich, Johnathan Day, Abha Singh, Chris Carpenter, Sharon Stevens, George Johnson, George Mangalaraj, Bruce Walters, Charles Malone. Guests: Chad Hankins (CBT), Andrea Jenkins (CAS), Dawn Sweet (CEHS)

Minutes from the October 22nd, 2014 meeting were approved.

Justin Ehrlich, then led a discussion on IT Governance pre-proposal #42, Implementing Google Apps for Education at WIU.

Some of the main points discussed:

- Google Apps for Education appears to be free. However final contract language would have to be reviewed by WIU attorney, etc.
- gmail would offer stability over Zimbra. Google Apps and gmail is cloud-based and would not require as much staff time and wouldn't require servers.
- There would be cost savings to the University of gmail over Zimbra. Although Zimbra software is free, Zimbra requires a support fee per person, U-Tech staff time to maintain, and servers and space to run. The saved money could then be used for other technology needs.
- We would still be able to use our existing WIU email addresses with gmail.
- Concerns over privacy. It was mentioned that Google had to be taken to court to get them to stop some of their collection of individual data from emails, etc. Google has stopped that practice, but still would be collecting broader based aggregate data.
- However, there would be no advertising displayed in the Google Apps for Education applications.
- WIU would still own the data. WIU would still be able to scan the data to remove files with SSN's etc.

- Google can change the terms of the contract at any time, but must give over a years notice that they will be making those changes. Then the University would have the option to go with the new terms – or look for alternatives.
- There were concerns expressed that once Google got us hooked, they could then add costs up the road. Although WIU would have opportunities to pull out of Google Apps for Education if problems developed (privacy issues, added costs, etc.) it would be hard to then return to non-cloud based applications once the server infrastructure for email applications like Zimbra had been taken down.
- A list of some of the universities already using Google Apps for Education was circulated.
- It was brought up that many K-12 institutions are using Google Apps for Education. So many incoming student would be familiar with these applications. It was also brought up that some K-12 schools are instead using MS Office 365.
- Many students, faculty, and staff are already using gmail. Several CIT members talked positively about their own use of gmail – and their positive experiences from being at institutions where gmail was used.
- ECOM authentication could be incorporated into Google Apps for Education. WIU would still control authentication of users.
- Students, faculty and staff would have an email address for life. However, certain aspects of data would not go with those graduating and/or leaving the University.
- Adopting Google Apps would not change the availability status of current Microsoft Office applications.
- Use of Google Apps for Educations other features besides gmail were discussed as potential positives for the classroom by those wishing to make use of those applications. It was again pointed out that MS Office products would still be available. For example, one would still be able to use MS Excel rather than Google’s spreadsheet application if they chose to

- Cloud-based MS Office 365 was also discussed. It also offers email applications. Although not a free product, several members felt the University should do a comparison between Google Apps for Education and MS Office 365.
- Discussion of the wording of a recommendation first centered around support for switching to a cloud-based application. And then a second proposal calling for a comparison between Google Apps and MS Office 365. Ultimately, the consensus was that CIT should make one proposal, with the emphasis of whether we supported pre-proposal #42 or not.
- There was a discussion if CIT's recommendation should include a set date that the University would switch to a cloud-based application. There was some additional discussion that it would probably require a tiered installation, and also run simultaneously with Zimbra for a certain period of time
- Justin Ehrlich made a motion that CIT support IT Governance pre-proposal #42, Implementing Google Apps for Education at WIU, with an additional recommendation from CIT that the University make a comparison with other cloud-based systems (e.g. MS Office 365) before the University moves forward with the Google Apps proposal. Bruce Walters seconded the motion.
- The motion passed unanimously, 12-0.

Recorder
Charles Malone